

IN THE CLAIMS

1-3. (Cancelled by the Examiner)

4. (Amended) ~~The A as set forth in claim 3, wherein~~ method of preventing reverse rotation in a spark ignited internal combustion engine having at least one spark plug fired by an ignition circuit and having an electrical generator driven by the engine from which the speed of said engine is determined and a starting device for cranking the engine for starting thereof, said method comprising the steps permitting the firing of said spark plug after the starting device is initially operated after the starting has been initiated and the speed of the engine reaches a first value and determining after the starting has been initiated if the speed of the engine has decreased from a previously sensed speed sufficiently that the engine may be starting to rotate in a direction opposite to that desired, and thereafter preventing firing of the spark plug .

5. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 4, wherein the firing of the spark plug is prevented when the speed of the engine falls below a second predetermined value lower than the first predetermined value.

6. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 5, wherein once the firing of the spark plug has been prevented the spark plug is not permitted to fire again until another starting operation is initiated.

7. (Amended) ~~The method as set forth in claim 1, A~~ method of preventing reverse rotation in a spark ignited internal combustion engine having at least one spark plug fired by an ignition circuit and having an electrical generator driven by the engine and a starting device for cranking the engine for starting thereof , wherein the engine ignition system includes a timing mark driven by an engine shaft and a pulser coil for providing an output signal in response to the position of the timing mark to determine the time of firing the engine ,said method comprising the step of not permitting and the ignition of the spark plug is not permitted until the pulser coil outputs a first signal.

8. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 7, wherein the speed of the engine is detected by the output of an electrical generator driven by the engine.

9. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 8, wherein the firing of the spark plug upon starting is not permitted until the speed of the engine reaches a predetermined first value.

10. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 9, wherein the firing of the spark plug is

prevented when the speed of the engine falls below a second predetermined value lower than the first predetermined value.

11. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 10, wherein once the firing of the spark plug has been prevented the spark plug is not permitted to fire again until another starting operation is initiated.

12.-13. (Canceled)

14. (Amended) An ignition and anti reverse running system for an internal combustion engine comprising a pulser coil for generating a pulse in response to the passage of a timing mark associated with a shaft driven by the engine, said engine driving an electrical generator and the speed of the engine is determined by the output of said electrical generator, an ignition circuit for receiving the pulse and initiating the firing of a spark plug of the engine, an ignition preventing circuit for preventing the firing of the spark plug by said ignition circuit when the speed of the engine falls below a predetermined speed after the engine has been initially cranked for starting thereof.

15. Canceled

16. (Amended) An ignition and anti reverse running system for an internal combustion engine, said engine driving an electrical generator, comprising a pulser coil for generating a pulse in response to the passage of a timing mark associated with a shaft driven by the engine, an ignition circuit for receiving the pulse and initiating the firing of a spark plug of the engine, an ignition preventing circuit for preventing the firing of the spark plug by said ignition circuit when the speed of the engine is determined by a summing circuit that sums the output of at least two of said phases, comprising as set forth in claim 15, wherein the summing circuit comprises reverse current preventing diodes each receiving the output of a respective phase of the said electrical generator, a capacitor charged by the electrical generator output, and a resistor connected between the capacitor and a reverse revolution discriminating circuit.

17. (Original) An ignition and anti reverse running system as set forth in claim 16, wherein the reverse revolution discriminating circuit comprises a flip-flop circuit connected to a pulse receiving circuit receiving the output of the pulser coil and a transistor circuit connected between said flip-flop circuit and the resistor of the summing circuit.